

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, said slider having a top and a bottom, and a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprising a first tear notch formed therein at a first elevation that is at or higher than an elevation of said top of said slider, and said first wall of said header comprising a first line of weakness having a straight first portion extending across said header at a second elevation that is lower than an elevation of said bottom of said slider, ~~wherein said first portion of said first line of weakness lies in a region having an upper boundary at an elevation which is lower than a top of said slider, said region being lower than an elevation of said first tear notch, and said first wall of said header further comprising a first slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing said first and second elevations, a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first portion of said first line of weakness, said first slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane.~~

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said first slit is inclined at an angle in a range of 30 to 90 degrees relative to a line of said zipper, said lower point of said first slit being further away from the closest one of said first and second side edges than is said upper point of said first slit.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said second side edge of said header comprises a second tear notch at said first elevation, and said first wall of said header further comprises a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing ~~a first elevation near an elevation of said second tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first portion of said first line of weakness~~ said first and second elevations.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said second wall of said header comprises:

a second line of weakness having a straight portion extending across said header at said second elevation, ~~said portion of said second line of weakness lying in a region having an upper boundary at an elevation which is lower than said top of said slider,~~ and

a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing ~~a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said portion of said second line of weakness~~ said first and second elevations.

Claim 7 (Original): The package as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and second lines of weakness are overlapping.

Claim 8 (Original): The package as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and second slits are overlapping.

Claim 9 (Original): The package as recited in claim 5, wherein lower end points of said first and second slits are closer together than are upper end points of said first and second slits.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said header further comprises a seal for sealing said first and second walls together.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said header is integrally formed with said receptacle.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said header comprises a folded piece, said first and second walls of said folded piece being sealed to said receptacle.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, said slider having a top and a bottom, and a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprises a first tear notch at a first elevation that is at or higher than an elevation of said top of said slider, and said first wall comprises a first line of weakness extending across said header at a second elevation that is lower than an elevation of said bottom of said slider, ~~in a region lower~~

~~than an elevation of said first tear notch and a first slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first line of weakness,~~ said first slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said second side edge comprises a second tear notch formed therein at said first elevation, and said first wall further comprises a second slit traversing ~~a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said second tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first line of weakness~~ said first and second elevations.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a first interlockable member and said second fastener strip comprises a second interlockable member, said first line of weakness being located in a region which is lower than said first and second interlockable members.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said second wall comprises a second line of weakness extending across said header at said second elevation ~~in a region lower than said elevation of said first tear notch~~ and a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing ~~a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said second line of weakness~~ said first and second elevations.

Claim 18 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said first slit is inclined at an angle in a range of 30 to 90 degrees relative to a line of said zipper, said lower point being further away from the closest one of said first and second side edges than is said upper point of said first slit.

Claim 19 (Original): The package as recited in claim 17, wherein said first and second lines of weakness are overlapping.

Claim 20 (Original): The package as recited in claim 17, wherein said first and second slits are overlapping.

Claim 21 (Original): The package as recited in claim 14, wherein lower end points of said first and second slits are closer together than are upper end points of said first and second slits.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said header is integrally formed with said receptacle.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said header comprises a folded piece, said first and second walls of said folded piece being sealed to said receptacle.

Claims 24-48 (Canceled).

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, said slider having a top and a bottom, and a header covering said zipper and said

slider, wherein said header comprises first and second header walls each extending from a first side edge to a second side edge, and said first header wall comprises a tear notch at a first elevation that is higher than an elevation of said top of said slider and a first line of weakness that extends generally horizontally across at least a portion of said header at a second elevation that is lower than an ~~said first~~ elevation of said bottom of said slider, wherein said first header wall further comprises a slit that traverses a range of elevations ~~from a vicinity of that encompasses~~ said first and second elevations, ~~elevation to a vicinity of a portion of said first line of weakness~~, said slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane.

Claim 50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 49, wherein said first and second header walls are connected by a fold.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 49, wherein said first and second header walls are sealed together.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 49, wherein said first and second header walls are respectively joined to opposing walls of said receptacle.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 49, wherein said first and second header walls are respectively integrally formed with opposing walls of said receptacle.

Claims 55-57 (Canceled).